



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2002 02-43

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

INTERAGENCY FIRE CREW SUPPRESSES LIGHTNING STRIKE FIRE

Today, an Interagency initial attack fire crew responded to a report of smoke off Lozier Hill above the Oxbow Bend of the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park. A crew of six firefighters equipped with hand tools, water-filled bags and a chainsaw contained a single burning tree, keeping the fire to less than one-tenth of an acre.

Lightning during a recent thunderstorm split a large single tree in two, igniting the Oxbow Fire. When located, the fire was burning adjacent to heavy timber. Firefighters worked to immediately suppress this fire due to the current fire danger rating of Very High and a national shortage of fire fighting resources with several large fires burning in many western states.

Area residents and visitors are reminded that partial fire restrictions for Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest will go into effect tomorrow, July 18. Those partial fire restrictions include:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, barbecue or grill is allowed **only** in designated recreation sites such as established campgrounds or picnic areas.
- Smoking is allowed **only** in an enclosed vehicle, building, developed recreation site, or while in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- Operating a chainsaw in national parks is prohibited. Operating a chainsaw on national forests is permitted only when equipped with an USDA or SAE approved spark arrester that is properly installed and in effective working order. Operators must also carry a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2A and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.
- Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame is prohibited, except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter. A chemical pressurized fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of at least 2A must be at the location.
- Using an explosive requiring blasting caps is prohibited.

This fire marks the second lightning-caused fire in the park this year. There have been four human-caused fires; three fires started from downed power lines and one from an improperly extinguished cigarette. Interagency fire managers ask that the public help by immediately reporting any smoke that they might see.

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